

TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP

(Effective _____ 1975)

1. Establishment of a National Security Council Intelligence Committee was directed by the President in his memorandum of 5 November 1971, "Organization and Management of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Community," which was reflected in the revised National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 1, "Basic Duties and Responsibilities," effective 17 February 1972. NSCIC No. 1 provides that the NSCIC is to "give direction and guidance on national substantive intelligence needs and provide for a continuing evaluation of intelligence products from the viewpoint of the intelligence consumer."

2. Authority

The NSCIC Working Group was established pursuant to discussion at the initial NSCIC meeting of 3 December 1971.

3. Mission

The NSCIC Working Group will support the NSCIC and facilitate NSCIC actions to give direction and guidance on national substantive needs for intelligence and provide for a continuing evaluation of intelligence products from the viewpoint of the intelligence consumer.

4. Organization and Membership

a. The NSCIC Working Group shall consist of one representative of each NSCIC member.

b. The NSCIC has directed that the representative of the Director of Central Intelligence shall be the Chairman of the Working Group.

c. Except for the representative of the Director of Central Intelligence it is the NSCIC intention that members of the Working Group be users of intelligence rather than intelligence officers.

d. The Chairman of the Working Group will establish, and chair, an Intelligence Panel, including representatives from the major intelligence production organizations, to support the efforts of the Working Group. The Chairman of the Working Group may organize such additional ad hoc task groups as may become necessary to support the Working Group program.

e. Intelligence users from departments and agencies not represented on the NSCIC, intelligence program managers, and representatives of particular intelligence production organizations may be invited to participate in Working Group meetings when matters within their particular interest or expertise are on the agenda.

The NSCIC Working Group will:

- a. Present action recommendations to the NSCIC in furtherance of the mission of the NSCIC.
- b. Conduct such studies, surveys, reviews, evaluations and inquiries as may be directed by the NSCIC in execution of its mission.
- c. Initiate such inter-agency studies, surveys, reviews, evaluations and inquiries as the Working Group considers are pertinent to the furtherance of the program of the NSCIC to:
 - (1) Improve the expression of consumer needs for intelligence.
 - (2) Evaluate the responsiveness and quality of intelligence products from the viewpoint of the intelligence consumer.

6. Method of Operation

- a. Meetings of the Working Group will be on the call of the Chairman. Any member desiring that the Working Group be convened will so advise the Chairman.
- b. Action projects for Working Group sponsorship can be proposed by any member of the Group.
- c. Responsibility for the conduct of studies and preparation of reports undertaken under Working Group sponsorship will be assigned by the Chairman as agreed among the members.
- d. For the preparation of studies and reports, the Working Group can establish interagency task groups or assign

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responsibility to a single organization as determined on the basis of the nature of the problem.

e. All studies and reports prepared under auspices of the Working Group will be submitted to the Working Group for its consideration prior to being given any dissemination by the task group or other persons charged with preparation of the documents.

f. Working Group decisions will be reached by consensus among the members, but in the event full agreement not attained, the Chairman, in forwarding the results of Working Group action to the NSCIC, will advise the NSCIC of the dissent or differing opinion of any member who so requests.

g. Studies and reviews accomplished under Working Group auspices for background and information use which do not contain action recommendations and which the Working Group considers do not require referral to the NSCIC may be disseminated by the Working Group Chairman directly to such organizations and agencies as the Working Group Chairman considers would find them useful.

7. Staff Support

The Chairman of the Working Group will designate an Executive Secretary who will arrange for provision of support as required by the Working Group.

DOD REPRESENTATIVES RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO DRAFT
TERMS OF REFERENCE, NSCIC WORKING GROUP

Page 2, Paragraph 4a

Change as follows:

~~"The NSCIC has directed that the representative of the Director of Central Intelligence shall be the chairman of the Working Group.~~

As a matter of convenience, and to provide the necessary staff support, the Director of Central Intelligence should provide the Chairman of the Working Group"

Reason: There is no documentation that the NSCIC directed this action. Proposed language is believed to state the underlying rationale correctly.

Page 2, Paragraph 4d

Change as follows:

~~"The Chairman of the working group will may establish and chair an Intelligence Panel, including representatives from the major intelligence production organizations, such panels and ad hoc task groups composed of user and/or production organization representatives as may be needed to support the efforts of the Working Group. The Chairman of the Working Group may organize such additional ad hoc task groups as may become -- necessary to support the Working Group program.~~

Reason: To avoid establishing an additional layer of formal organization where one is not needed to accomplish the functions described in paragraph 5. Clearly, the Chairman should be able to call on user and production organizations to perform study work in support of the group. However, he should be able to do so flexibly, as the needs of the study dictate, rather than have to look to a formal permanent panel as his primary source of expertise.

Further, it is believed that as a matter of policy the Working Group should avoid adopting a formal device which would institutionalize intelligence community participation in the Group's activities. The whole thrust of the idea of an NSCIC and its Working Group is that it should reflect the user point of view. The original NSCIC Working Group, established in 1972 and later abandoned, was criticized as being more representative of the intelligence community than of the users. The creation of an intelligence panel with formal community membership to do the primary studies to support the Group would appear to repeat the original mistake, at one echelon lower in the organization.